Maine NRCS 2017 Financial Assistance Program-General Fund Pool Screening Criteria Worksheet

All eligible applications to the 2017 AMA and EQIP local and statewide category fund pools must be evaluated using this worksheet. Eligible Applications for National Initiative fund pools (National Water Quality Initiative, On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Working Lands for Wildlife) shall NOT be evaluated using this worksheet if one is developed specifically for the initiative. **NOTE: Per EQIP manual policy reference 515.71 B, EQIP applications for Veteran Farmers who also self-certify as a BF or BF/SDF who meet all eligibility criteria must be set to High priority <u>if competing in an EQIP BF/R or SDF/R fund pool.</u>**

<u>Instructions:</u>
This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible application for FY 2017 funding consideration in one of the Financial Assistance (FA) programs listed above. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and program benefits are efficiently allocated to address prioritized conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide NRCS FA program benefits nor approval of a FA program contract. This screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant's case file and the screening priority (High, Medium, or Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of the screening worksheet   will be provided to the applicant. Initially, only HIGH priority applications will be ranked and considered for funding. MEDIUM priority applications in a particular funding category will be ranked and considered for funding ONLY if funds remain available and all HIGH priority applications within the category are funded or otherwise not being considered (deferred, cancelled, etc.). LOW priority applications will not be ranked.

Applicant Name:			County:		
Application Number:			Field Office:		

	Step One - Evaluation	**Yes or N/A?**	**Action:**	**No?**	**Action**	**Notes/Comments**
A	Is the application form NRCS CPA 1200 complete, signed and dated? Are the applicant and land eligible? Has the applicant provided documentation and evidence to indicate all eligibility criteria for the program have been met, including land control and "other eligibility" specific to the program (to include providing a completed adequate CNMP, FMP, or AgEMP if required)? If entity with EIN tax id, DUNS/SAM.gov registration is current? Was the application submitted on or before the cut-off deadline for 2017 funding consideration?		**Yes to all= Keep going: Continue To B**		**No to ANY part = <u>STOP:</u> Do not process until application is complete and eligible. If not complete and eligible by end of ranking period, change application status to "Ineligible" in ProTracts. Continue to Step 2.**	
B	Is the applicant self-certified as a Veteran/Beginning Farmer/Rancher or a Veteran/Beginning/Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher **and** the application is competing in an **EQIP** Beginning Farmer/Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher fund pool?		**Yes-Application is High priority. Continue to Step 2.**		**No-Keep going: Continue to C**	
C	Has all information been gathered in regards to this application to clearly identify the resource concern issues to be addressed, to identify the specific practices to be planned to address the resource concerns, to initially identify the most appropriate practice scenario, **and** to reasonably estimate the extent of the practices?		**Yes, all information has been gathered in regards to this application to clearly identify the resource concern issues to be addressed, to identify the specific practices to be planned to address the resource concerns, to initially identify the most appropriate practice scenario, <u>and</u> to reasonably estimate the extent of the practices for this application = Keep going: Continue to D**		**No, there is <u>NOT</u> sufficient information to clearly identify the resource concern issues to be addressed, to identify the specific practices to be planned to address the resource concerns, to initially identify the most appropriate practice scenario, <u>and</u> to reasonably estimate the extent of the practices for this application= Application is Medium priority at this point. Continue to D.**	
D	Have **all** NEPA requirements for the actions associated with this application been completed and the final determinations support moving ahead with this project?		**Yes, all NEPA requirements are completed and final results support moving ahead with this project = Keep going: Continue to E**		**No, final results from NEPA requirements not been received= Continue to D-1**	
	D-1: Have all NEPA requirements been initiated and DC anticipates that the final determinations will be received prior to the 2017 obligation deadline and it is fully anticipated that the results will support moving ahead with this project?		**Yes = Application is Medium Priority at this point. Keep going: Continue to E.**		**No = <u>STOP:</u> Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.**	
E	If a CAP application, is there currently a Maine Certified NRCS TSP registered to write the CAP in the intended treatment area (as indicated on TSP resume posted in TechReg)?		**Yes or N/A = Keep going: Continue to F**		**No = <u>STOP:</u> Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.**	
F	Will the proposed practices address **two or more eligible** resource concerns (i.e., Air Quality Impacts, Degraded Plant Condition, Excess Water, Fish and Wildlife, Inefficient Energy Use, Insufficient Water, Livestock Production Limitation, Soil Erosion, Soil Quality Degradation, Water Quality Degradation)? **If application is for AOP, Seasonal High Tunnel <u>only</u>, On-Farm Energy, or a CAP and only has one identified resource concern, skip to G.**		**Yes, or for AOP, Seasonal High Tunnel only, On-Farm Energy, or CAP applications with only one resource concern identified = Keep going: Continue To G**		**No = Continue to F-1**	
	F-1: Application is addressing **only one** resource concern?		**Yes = Application is Medium Priority at this point. Keep going: Continue to G.**		**No, there are no resource concern issues identified = <u>STOP:</u> Application is ineligible. Continue to Step 2.**	
G	The applicant has **not** had a NRCS Financial Assistance Program agreement contract terminated for a non-compliance reason (other than loss of control of the land due to hardship or reasons beyond the control of the participant) during the previous 3 fiscal years (2014- 2016)?		**Yes, applicant has NO terminations for non-compliance within the last 3 years = Keep going: Continue to H**		**No, the applicant HAS had a termination for non-compliance within the last 3 years = <u>STOP:</u> Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.**	

	Applicant Name:		County:					
	Application Number:		Field Office:					

	Step One - Evaluation	**Yes or N/A?**	**Action:**	**No?**	**Action**	**Notes/Comments**
H	The applicant has not had a NRCS-CPA-153 non-compliance form issued for a contract violation due to reasons within their control for a prior year NRCS Financial Assistance Program agreement in the past 3 years (2014-2016)?		**Yes, applicant has NO 153's issued for non-compliance within the last 3 years = Keep going: Continue to I**		**No, the applicant HAS had at least one 153 issued for non-compliance within the last 3 years. Continue to Step H-1.**	
	H-1: The applicant **HAS had only ONE** NRCS-CPA-153 issued for a contract violation due to reasons within their control within the past 3 years, and has met the agreed-to action deadline?		**Yes, applicants has had only one 153 issued, but met the action deadline = Application is Medium Priority at this point. Keep going: Continue to I.**		**No, The applicant has had at least one 153 issued for non-compliance within the last 3 years and has NOT met the action deadline, or has had multiple 153's issued for true non-compliance issues within the last 3 years = STOP: Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.**	
I	If the applicant has active contracts, there are none that have had **more than** one rescheduling modifications?		**Yes, the applicant has NO active contracts with more than one rescheduling modification = Application is High priority. Continue to Step 2.**		**No, the applicant DOES have one or more active contracts with more than one rescheduling modification = Keep going: Continue to J**	
J	If the applicant has active contracts, there are none that have had **more than** two rescheduling modifications?		**Yes, the applicant has NO active contracts with more than two rescheduling modifications = Application is Medium priority. Continue to Step 2.**		**No, the applicant DOES have one or more active contracts with more than two rescheduling modifications =Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.**	

Step 2 - Priority determination for ProTracts - Select One: Priority setting is based on the lowest screening result.

High Priority Category:
For VF/BF or VF/BF/SDF competing in either a BF or SD fund pool, answers to Step One questions A and B are Yes = mark application as HIGH priority in ProTracts and proceed with ranking. For all other applicants, all answers to Step One questions A, C, D, and E (if applicable), F, G, H, and I are answered Yes = mark application as **High priority** in ProTracts and **proceed with ranking**.

Medium Priority Category:
Answer to Step One question B and C are No, and answers to Step One questions A, D-1 , E (if applicable), F-1, H-1, and/or J are answered Yes = mark application as **Medium** priority in ProTracts and **DO NOT RANK at this time**.

Low Priority Category:
Answers to Step One questions A is Yes, and B, D-1, E, G, H-1 or J is answered No = mark application as **Low** priority in ProTracts and **DO NOT RANK!**

INELIGIBLE:
Answers to Step One questions A or F-1 is answered No = Change status of application to **INELIGIBLE** in ProTracts and **DO NOT RANK!**
If changes are made to make the application eligible prior to ranking deadline, you must re-do the screening to determine priority setting.

The priority determination of High, Medium or Low must be recorded in Protracts for this application by the end of the ranking period.

Evaluator Signature:	Date:	If Evaluator is NOT the DC, DC Signature:	Date: